

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05
MCT-01 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 /059 W
-----018119 121056Z /13

R 120958Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4821
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4252

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET
SUBJECT: ADDIS ABABA SECURITY SITUATION

REF A) ADDIS ABABA 3385 B) ADDIS ABABA 4297 C) ADDIS ABABA 3909

SUMMARY: ADDIS ABABA SURFACE CALM SINCE JUNE 25 MILITIA
DEMONSTRATION, ALTHOUGH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSASSINATIONS CONTINUE
AT STEADY PACE. PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
(PMAC), PROBABLY PREOCCUPIED WITH MORE SERIOUS SECURITY
PROBLEMS IN NORTH AND SOUTHEAST, HAS APPARENTLY CHOSEN
NOT TO INITIATE ANY SPECIAL COUNTER MEASURES OR INTENSE
SEARCH CAMPAIGN FOR MOMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE JUNE 25 MILITIA DEMONSTRATION THROUGH STREETS OF
ADDIS ABABA, CAPITAL HAS BEEN SUPERFICIALLY CALM. ALTHOUGH
PMAC ANTICIPATED SOME VIOLENCE JUST BEFORE MILITIA PARADE,
EMBASSY UNAWARE ANY OCCURRED IN THAT CONNECTION OTHER THAN
LONE INCIDENT AT ITALIAN EMBASSY (REFTEL C). HOWEVER,
SECOND SCHOOL DIRECTOR IN MONTH ASSASSINATED JUNE 23. ALSO,
ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HAVE REPORTED ASSASSINATIONS OF THREE KEBELE
EXECUTIVES DURING PERIOD. NEVERTHELESS, RELIABLE SOURCES
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CLAIM ACTUAL FIGURE MUCH HIGHER, REFLECTING CONSTANT LEVEL
OF CLANDESTINE ASSASSINATIONS OVER PAST 2-3 MONTHS, IN SPITE
OF VIGOROUS GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE URBAN TERRORISM.

2. WHILE LOW-LEVEL URBAN TERRORISM CONTINUES, WE HAVE HAD
NO REPORTS RECENTLY OF EPMG COUNTER MEASURES. AS HAS BEEN
CASE ALL YEAR, NON-ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN COMMUNITY IS NOT A

TARGET OF HOSTILITY FROM ANY GROUP (EXCEPT IN PRESS), AND EPMG CONTINUES TO COOPERATE FULLY IN ASSURING SAFETY OF OFFICIAL FOREIGN PERSONNEL. EVEN SHORTLIVED HARASSMENT BY ETHIOPIAN SECURITY PERSONNEL OF SUDANESE AND SOMALI DIPLOMATS APPEARS TO HAVE CEASED FOR TIME BEING.

3. DESPITE LACK OF PMAC COUNTER MEASURES FOR MOMENT, THERE NUMEROUS RUMORS ASSASSINATIONS NO LONGER EXCLUSIVELY WORK OF EPRP OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, BUT OSTENSIBLY PRO-PMAC "MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS" CONTENDING FOR POWER WITHIN CIVILIAN POLITICAL MOVEMENT (REFTEL B) MAY NOW ALSO BE INVOLVED. MOST PERSISTENT RUMOR, WHICH MAY HAVE SOME BASIS IN FACT, IS THAT PMAC CONTEMPLATING DISSOLUTION AND RECONSTITUTION OF PROVISIONAL OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA) WITHIN NEXT 2-3 MONTHS, AND POMOA ATTEMPTING TO BUILD ITS FORCES IN ANTICIPATION OF PMAC ACTIONS. WHILE POSSIBLE POMOA-PMAC CONFRONTATION STILL CONJECTURAL, IF IT SHOULD OCCUR, THERE COULD BE MAJOR PURGE OF CURRENTLY PROMINENT POMOA MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS, WHO ARE CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE TO PMAC, AS OPPOSED TO SHADOWY UNDERGROUND ANTI-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS FROM EPRP AND ELSEWHERE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, POLITICAL STABILITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS04252
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770247-0232
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770769/aaaachqc.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59b9676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 3385, 77 ADDIS ABABA 4297, 77 ADDIS ABABA 3909
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1895870
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDIS ABABA SECURITY SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59b9676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009